

N E W S R E L E A S E

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California's Unemployment Rate Unchanged at 5.2 Percent **Payroll Employment Up 17,200 Jobs**

SACRAMENTO – California's unemployment rate was 5.2 percent in August, unchanged from a revised 5.2 percent in July, the state Employment Development Department (EDD) reported today. A year ago, in August 2004, California's unemployment rate was 6.1 percent.

According to EDD's survey of employers, nonfarm payroll employment in California grew by 17,200 jobs over the month, for a total of 14,808,800.

According to the separate survey of households, the number of Californians holding jobs in August was 16,957,000, a record high for employment for the fifth consecutive month. This was an increase of 75,000 from July, and up 452,000 from the employment total in August of last year.

The number of people unemployed in California was 930,000 – an increase of 12,000 over the month, but down by 137,000 compared with August of last year.

Of the unemployed, 299,900 were laid off, 82,800 left their jobs voluntarily, and the remaining were either new entrants or reentrants into the labor market, or persons who completed temporary jobs.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMS (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

In related data, the EDD reported that there were 324,564 people receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits during the August survey week. This compares with 339,487 last month and 386,577 last year. At the same time, new claims for unemployment insurance were 33,711 in August 2005, compared with 37,436 in July and 40,237 in August of last year.

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WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DETAIL (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

EDD's report on payroll employment (wage and salary jobs) in the nonfarm industries of California totaled 14,808,800 in August, a net gain of 17,200 jobs since the July survey. This followed a gain of 38,100 jobs (as revised) in July.

Seven of the categories (**natural resources and mining; construction; trade, transportation and utilities; financial activities; professional and business services; educational and health services; and leisure and hospitality**) added jobs over the month, gaining 23,700 jobs. The trade, transportation and utilities industry showed the largest gain, up by 7,400 jobs. Three categories (**manufacturing; information; and other services**) reported job declines this month, down 6,500 jobs. Information posted the largest decline over the month, down by 4,000 jobs. Employment in **government** was unchanged.

In a year-over-year comparison (August 2004 to August 2005), nonfarm payroll employment in California increased by 223,300 jobs (up 1.5 percent).

Nine industry divisions (**construction; trade, transportation and utilities; information; financial activities; professional and business services; educational and health services; leisure and hospitality; other services; and government**) posted job gains over the year, adding 223,900 jobs. Construction showed the strongest employment growth on both a numerical and percentage basis, adding 60,900 jobs, a 7.1 percent increase. Professional and business services and leisure and hospitality posted the next largest gains, adding 40,700 jobs (up 1.9 percent) and 40,400 jobs (up 2.8 percent), respectively.

Two categories (**natural resources and mining** and **manufacturing**) posted job declines over the year, down 600 jobs. On a numerical basis, manufacturing employment showed the largest decline, down by 500 jobs.

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DETAIL (**NOT** SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

Over the month, employment in **construction** showed the largest non-seasonally adjusted gain, up by 14,100 jobs. Most of the gains were in the specialty trade contractors sector, which added 10,200 jobs. **Government** recorded the greatest non-seasonally adjusted loss, down by 25,000 jobs. The losses were mainly in local and state government education, which declined by 16,900 jobs and 2,600 jobs, respectively, reflecting the usual summer school recess.

The **construction** industry reported the largest gain over the year, up 62,700 jobs. The gains were concentrated in the specialty trade contractors and construction of buildings sectors, which were up by 42,000 and 13,100 jobs, respectively. No industries reported job losses over the year.

Seasonally adjusted payroll detail follows:

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA
(Amounts in thousands)

Industrial Classification	August 2005 (prelim.)	July 2005	August 2004	Change Over 12 months (Percent)
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers	14,808.8	14,791.6	14,585.5	1.5
Natural resources and mining	22.9	22.6	23.0	-0.4
Construction	915.7	910.8	854.8	7.1
Manufacturing	1,538.0	1,539.5	1,538.5	0.0
Trade, transportation and utilities	2,786.1	2,778.7	2,763.8	0.8
Information	487.0	491.0	481.4	1.2
Financial activities	922.0	919.9	907.7	1.6
Professional and business services	2,154.4	2,152.8	2,113.7	1.9
Educational and health services	1,587.0	1,584.9	1,565.0	1.4
Leisure and hospitality	1,485.9	1,480.6	1,445.5	2.8
Other services	509.5	510.5	503.9	1.1
Government*	2,400.3	2,400.3	2,388.2	0.5
Agriculture	370.3	366.8	369.5	0.2

*Includes all civilian employees of federal, state, and local governments.

TABLE A
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

	August 2005	July 2005	June 2005	August 2004
Civilian labor force ^a	17,887,000	17,800,000	17,811,000	17,572,000
Total civilian employment	16,957,000	16,882,000	16,845,000	16,505,000
Unemployment	930,000	918,000	966,000	1,067,000
Seasonally adjusted rate %	5.2	5.2	5.4	6.1
US seasonally adjusted rate % .	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.4

TABLE B
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, UNADJUSTED DATA

	August 2005	July 2005	June 2005	August 2004
Civilian labor force ^a	18,009,000	17,946,000	17,847,000	17,613,000
Total civilian employment	17,085,000	16,972,000	16,876,000	16,568,000
Unemployment	924,000	974,000	971,000	1,045,000
Unadjusted rate %	5.1	5.4	5.4	5.9

^aLabor force by place of residence including workers involved in trade disputes.

MONTHLY LABOR FORCE DATA FOR COUNTIES
August 2005 (Preliminary); 2004 BENCHMARK
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	RATE
STATE TOTAL	18,008,300	17,084,700	923,600	5.1%
ALAMEDA	771,000	730,800	40,100	5.2%
ALPINE	480	440	40	8.9%
AMADOR	17,800	16,950	860	4.8%
BUTTE	101,100	94,900	6,200	6.1%
CALAVERAS	20,550	19,400	1,150	5.6%
COLUSA	10,000	9,190	810	8.1%
CONTRA COSTA	521,300	496,400	24,800	4.8%
DEL NORTE	10,990	10,190	800	7.2%
EL DORADO	91,700	87,800	3,900	4.3%
FRESNO	426,900	394,900	32,000	7.5%
GLENN	12,300	11,360	940	7.6%
HUMBOLDT	61,400	57,900	3,400	5.6%
IMPERIAL	63,900	52,400	11,500	18.0%
INYO	9,740	9,310	430	4.4%
KERN	329,000	304,300	24,700	7.5%
KINGS	56,000	51,700	4,300	7.7%
LAKE	27,240	25,400	1,840	6.7%
LASSEN	12,610	11,760	840	6.7%
LOS ANGELES	4,893,000	4,649,000	244,000	5.0%
MADERA	67,900	63,700	4,300	6.3%
MARIN	133,100	127,900	5,200	3.9%
MARIPOSA	9,440	8,980	460	4.8%
MENDOCINO	46,090	43,750	2,330	5.1%
MERCED	102,400	94,000	8,400	8.2%
MODOC	4,110	3,840	260	6.4%
MONO	8,220	7,800	420	5.1%
MONTEREY	219,700	208,100	11,600	5.3%
NAPA	74,500	71,500	3,000	4.0%
NEVADA	50,320	48,130	2,190	4.3%
ORANGE	1,639,300	1,576,800	62,500	3.8%
PLACER	160,100	153,700	6,400	4.0%
PLUMAS	11,470	10,870	610	5.3%
RIVERSIDE	834,200	787,600	46,600	5.6%
SACRAMENTO	686,500	653,700	32,800	4.8%
SAN BENITO	25,100	23,600	1,400	5.7%
SAN BERNARDINO	858,900	814,700	44,100	5.1%
SAN DIEGO	1,541,100	1,474,900	66,200	4.3%
SAN FRANCISCO	435,200	413,100	22,200	5.1%
SAN JOAQUIN	293,500	273,200	20,300	6.9%
SAN LUIS OBISPO	133,300	127,900	5,400	4.0%
SAN MATEO	372,000	355,900	16,200	4.3%
SANTA BARBARA	221,800	213,100	8,700	3.9%
SANTA CLARA	840,400	795,000	45,400	5.4%
SANTA CRUZ	149,600	142,200	7,500	5.0%
SHASTA	86,400	81,100	5,400	6.2%
SIERRA	1,660	1,550	110	6.5%
SISKIYOU	19,490	18,060	1,430	7.4%
SOLANO	215,900	204,400	11,500	5.3%
SONOMA	261,400	250,000	11,400	4.4%
STANISLAUS	240,400	223,600	16,800	7.0%
SUTTER	42,300	39,300	3,000	7.0%
TEHAMA	25,940	24,340	1,600	6.2%
TRINITY	5,530	5,100	430	7.7%
TULARE	181,900	166,400	15,400	8.5%
TUOLUMNE	26,590	25,130	1,460	5.5%
VENTURA	422,100	401,000	21,100	5.0%
YOLO	96,000	91,600	4,400	4.6%
YUBA	27,500	25,200	2,300	8.3%